

From our Churches

Author: Rachel Huebner

Church: Charleswood Mennonite Church

Date: September 7, 2003

This resource is part of a larger **From Our Churches** archives available as an inspirational resource to teachers, ministers and others of Mennonite Church Canada. Posted by permission of the author. Permission to reproduce and distribute is granted.

Commissioning Litany 1 **Congregational Church Offices**

Reader 1: Within the church body we are called to nurture and support out brothers and sisters:

- Through Deacons and pastors, giving pastoral care to those in times of suffering.
- Through small groups that meet to strengthen relationships and hold each other accountable to our Christian witness.
- Through the work of the fellowship committee and our newsletter, which provide opportunities to meet and share each other's lives.
- Through the education commission's role as teachers, fostering growth through study and conversation.
- Through the work of various youth and children's ministries.
- Through the Korean ministries commission.

Reader 2: We are called to be the church.

Congregation: *Give us faith, patience and perseverance as we accept this call.*

Reader 2: We are called to move in the midst of the joy and suffering of the world, to be the church in the wider community:

- Through the work of the mission and service committee, who organize our support of wider church ministries, and work to inform the congregation of opportunities to serve and witness in the world.
- Through the Peace and Justice Group, who strive to challenge complacency and to work to bring about restoration and justice in society.
- In our relationships as parents, children, sisters, brothers, spouses, grandparents, grandchildren, friends and neighbours.
- As we bring our gifts to the larger community in our work as teachers, students, business people, health and social service workers, farmers, tradespersons, artisans, support workers and administrators. We are called to carry the cause of justice, peace, love and reconciliation.

Reader 3: We are called to be the church

Congregation: *Give us faith, patience and perseverance as we accept this call.*

Reader 3: We are called to be a people who come before you in worship. Bring us together in a liturgy of praise and thanksgiving.

- Guide the worship committee, pastors, worship leaders, song leaders, musicians, visual artists, scripture readers and storytellers as they plan our services and lead us in worship.
- Accept our offerings and bring wisdom to the church council and finance and property committee as they care for our giving.

All: We are called to be the church.

Consecrate our thoughts, words, and actions as we nurture this body of believers. Strengthen our conviction and humility as we spread the Christian message into the world through word and deed.

Lead us as we seek to praise and honour you through worship.

AMEN